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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/199, 747 11/25/98 GIMPEL

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EXAMINER

LOCKETT, K

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2837

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DATE MAILED:

01/24/01

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.
09/199,747

Applicant(s)

Dudley D. Gimpel

Examiner

Kim Lockett

Group Art Unit
2837 Responsive to communication(s) filed on Oct 2, 2000 This action is **FINAL**. Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claims

 Claim(s) 1-29 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

 Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed. Claim(s) 1-29 is/are rejected. Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to. Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

 See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948. The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner. The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is approved disapproved. The specification is objected to by the Examiner. The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

 Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

All Some* None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been received.

received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.

received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____.

 Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

 Notice of References Cited, PTO-892 Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____ Interview Summary, PTO-413 Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948 Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

--- SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES ---

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Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-4 and 10-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over LoJacono in view of Bernstein and Porter.

LoJacono et al teaches the use of a nut for a stringed instrument having one or more strings, a body and a neck, the nut comprising, a elongated body that extends across a portion of the neck of the instrument, tuning keys(42), one or more intonations(17) that are equal to the number of strings (see figure 7) (claims 2, 14, and 19). LoJacono does not specifically teach fixed intonations.

Bernstein teaches the use of a nut for a stringed instrument having one or more strings, one or more fixed intonation portions where the intonations are nonadjustable(claim 20) on the front side of the body equal to the number of strings(claims 2,5, and 8) accommodating varying string sizes(column 3, lines 15-20).

Regarding claims 3 and 4, LoJacono teaches slots(22) that are aligned with an intonation (see figure 1).

Regarding claim 6, LoJacono teaches the use of first and second sidewalls(see figure 3).

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Regarding claim 13, the nut taught by LoJacono has a front side, back side, a top, and a bottom side (see figure 4).

Regarding claim 17, the bottom side of the nut contacts the neck of the instrument and the side of the nut faces the body of the instrument.

Regarding claims 22-24 Lojocano teaches a plurality of termination points offset in distance from one another along the body of the instrument.

LoJacono of Bernstein do not specifically teach the intonations on the front side of the nut or the use of intonation portions that extend outwardly from the nut.

D.S. Porter teaches the use of intonation portions that extend outwardly from the nut (see figure 1) and intonations on the front side of the nut (see figure 1)(claim 29).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the stringed musical instrument as taught by LoJacono with the fixed nut as taught by Bernstein and to include outwardly extending intonations on the front of the nut as taught by D.S. Porter to accommodate strings of different sizes and ranges.

3. Claims 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over LoJacono et al in view of Bernstrin and Wilkinson.

Claims 7 further recites the use of first and second walls joined by a lower surface.

Wilkinson teaches the use of a nut for stringed instruments comprising first and second side walls joined by a lower surface (see figure 2).

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Regarding claim 9, figure 3 of LoJaconp discloses the use of a curved lower surface.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teachings of LoJacono and Wilkinson to provide different diameters in order to allow for varying string diameters.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments filed 3/20/00 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

With respect to the applicant's arguments that the intonations taught by LaJocono are not fixed, Bernstein teaches fixed intonations that are nonadjustable on the front side of the nut (see figure 1).

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kim Locket whose telephone number is (703) 308-7615.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Nappi, can be reached on (703) 308-3370. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 305-3431.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1782.


ROBERT E. NAPPI
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800